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Urgent
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence

29 July 1961

MEMORANDUM

CHINESE NATIONALIST IRREGULARS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

1. The Chinese Nationalists evacuated 3,371 irregulars and 825 dependents and refugees from the Burma-Thai-Laos border area to Taiwan between 17 March and 12 April. The Nationalists claim to have evacuated all irregulars subject to their control but recent reports indicate that the Intelligence Bureau of the Ministry of National Defense has assigned agents to remain with the irregulars and report to Taipei. There are approximately 3,000 irregulars remaining in the border area, about 1,500 to 2,000 of these are located in Northern Thailand and the remainder are in Burma and in Laos. Many of these men are settled in villages and others are engaged in opium growing, but about 700 have remained as armed bandits or mercenaries.

2. According to a [redacted] source in [redacted] four or five hundred Chinese irregulars have joined the Laotian army and are between Luang Prabang and Ban Houei Sai. The Laotian

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Government is attempting to recruit more irregulars from the Thai-Lao border area to garrison Nam Tha province.

3. The presence of the irregulars in the Burma border area has been a long-standing irritant in American-Burmese relations. Rangoon suspects the remaining irregulars of secretly collaborating with the Shan and Kachin insurgents.

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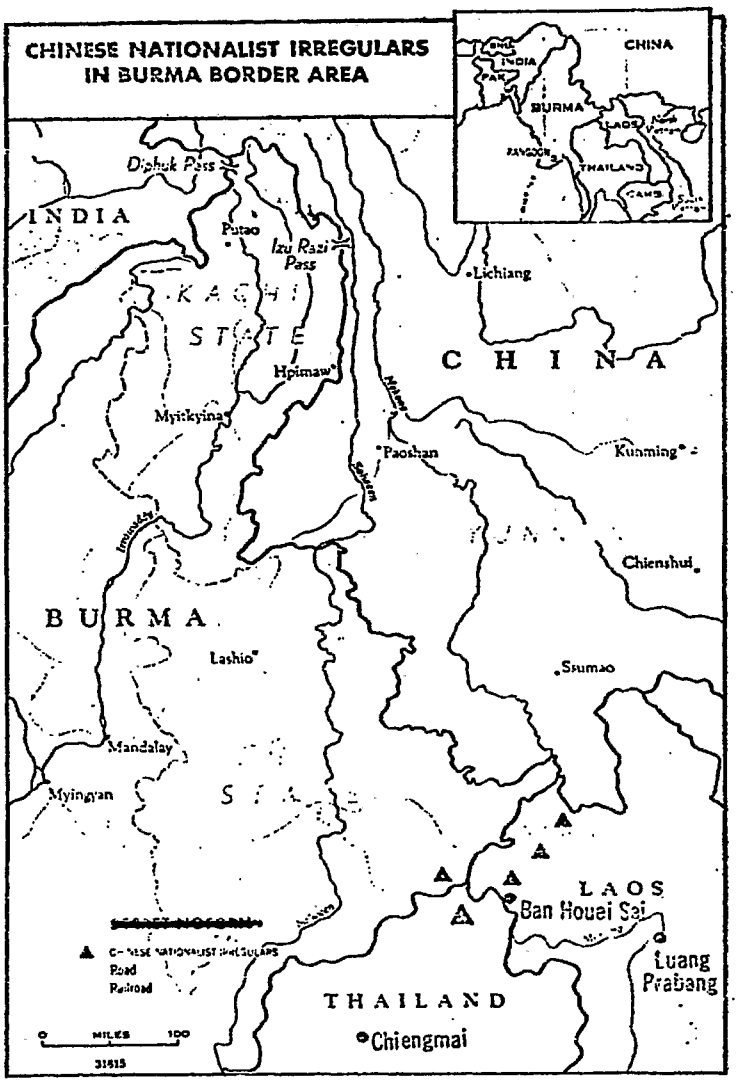

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